

SPLIT NOTES

Number 19

News from The Harrogate Band

February 2000

Millennium Dome

It's official! Our photograph, which was taken last year in the Sun Pavilion in the Valley Gardens, was spotted by Peter Wells when he visited the Dome recently. The Band is featured in the Self Portrait Zone, which is "a celebration of all things British - objects, places, people, attitudes, sounds, tastes - expressed through the views and perceptions of ordinary British people". We are proud to represent the brass band community in this way.

30th Anniversary

2000 is the Band's 30th Anniversary and we intend to celebrate it in various ways. We are planning some social events (e.g. a "games" evening and a barn dance) and will be holding a gala concert later in the year. We will let you know of more news when it is available. If you know of any old members or friends of the Band, who may have lost touch with us, please let us have their details - we would love to see them again. Also if you have any memories, memorabilia, or photos you would like to share with us please let me know. Any suggestions for additional ways to mark this anniversary are also welcome.

Players

Welcome to Keith Graham and Charlie Hanover who have joined the Band on Baritone and Trombone recently. Their contribution will be most welcome in our next contesting foray, the Regional Championships at Darlington, where we will be playing the set piece "*Sword, Jewel and Mirror*" by Philip Harper. All of the National Finals this year are being held at the Royal Albert Hall

over the three days 20-22 October - and it is our firm intention to qualify this time.

Neil Davidson has left the Band to take up further education in Huddersfield. We wish him good luck in his studies.

Majestic Fireworks

We played prior to the banquet of the National Garden Centres Association Conference at the Majestic Hotel earlier in January. This was a fairly normal sort of concert to an audience who were appreciating the good music in anticipation of a good meal. Towards the end of our playing it became rather apparent that the audience had found another entertainment form, and we found ourselves largely deserted. There was a huge fireworks display in the grounds of the hotel - staged on behalf of the conference - equal to some of the local Millennium displays.

Rochdale Triumph

The Band made its first contest foray across the Pennines to challenge brethren in Lancastrian bands at the Town Hall in Rochdale in a day of lashing rain. The competition was stiff, with good performances from all the other seven bands in the second section, but adjudicator Lloyd Landry awarded Harrogate first prize for our excellent rendition of James Curnow's *Trittico for Brass Band*. The venue was a glorious example of Victorian gothic decoration and made a superb setting - despite its echoing acoustic qualities. The cheer in the hall as the results were announced was somewhat more muted than usual, as virtually all of the Band were still in the pub, having totally misjudged the timing of the results!

Netherlands Tour

The Band is visiting the Netherlands from Friday 26th May to Saturday 3rd June. The first few days will be spent in Nuenen with the Gerwens Muziekkorps GMK Band (who visited Harrogate in 1998), and then on to Het Meerdal (Center Parc) for the remainder of the visit. Concerts will be performed in various locations during the week. There are some places available on the trip and players or non-players are welcome. For further details please get in touch with any band member.

Come Follow The Harrogate Band

Copies of this recording are available (£10 CD, £5 cassette) from the Band at most engagements, or contact Gavin Holman – see below.

The Brass Class

A short recital was given to Band members and parents prior to Christmas, which demonstrated the progress the young players had made over recent months. We still seek interested young players and potential players to boost the strength of the Brass Class and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to take part. Instruments, tuition and music are all provided free of charge!

Theatre Centenary

On January 13th the Band was pleased to open the celebrations at the Harrogate Theatre, 100 years since the first opening night. The events of the evening closely followed those of the original with performances from various dramatic and musical groups. A packed theatre enjoyed a wide range of entertainments to commemorate this important occasion. Unlike the 1900 event, when we started playing the processional music to welcome the VIPs, who

included the Harrogate MP Phil Willis, the stage curtain suddenly descended, grazing our MD David Lancaster, and the stage lights were extinguished. With extreme presence of mind and concentration the Band managed to busk the remainder of that piece of music in the dark whilst frantic verbal and non-verbal signals were being flung from David to the wings where the stage technicians were somewhat oblivious to our plight. Happily the audience did not realise that anything had gone wrong and the rest of the programme went off perfectly!

Hartlepool Again!

For the second year running the Band has been awarded first place in the Second Section at the Hartlepool Borough Contest (the Borough Council in Hartlepool have now taken on the sponsorship of this contest following the withdrawal of the original sponsors, Cameron's Brewery). The Band gave an excellent performance of its own choice test piece - *Trittico for Brass Band* by James Curnow - an exacting and challenging selection, but one which the band, audience and adjudicator, Colin Hardy, enjoyed. The Hartlepool contest, now in its seventh year, is a firm favourite with the Harrogate Band - not surprising given our record of wins: 5 first places, one second and one third!

End-to-End Success

Jason Harper completed his gruelling cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for our new uniforms. Supported by Dave Cole, he covered the 900-mile route in eight days and was actually cycling for 58 hours - an average of over 15 miles per hour. Jason had trained hard for this event and made excellent time, beating his own estimate of 10 days for the journey. All our congratulations and thanks to Jason on his achievement and to Dave for providing the motor support together with the Band trailer containing spares and supplies. Well done both!

Championship Band?

Following the Band's success over the last two years in the Yorkshire and Humberside Brass Band Association's Annual Contest, the Association has promoted the Harrogate Band to the Championship Section for the year 2000. The Band will still play in the Second Section for contests adhering to the national grading scheme, but looks forward to the challenge of competing at the higher level in the Association contests. Look out, Grimethorpe etc.!

Gala Concert

A large and appreciative audience packed Ripon Cathedral for the Band's Gala Concert to help complete the fund raising for the new uniforms. Alan Morrison, the world renowned cornet soloist and Principal Cornet with the JJB Leyland Band, was our guest soloist, performing six pieces to the acclaim of the listeners. The programme also included music from the hit show "Lord of the Dance", James Curnow's *Trittico*, and Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. This was another major success for the band and made a significant contribution to the fund. Many thanks to David Lancaster for single-handedly promoting the event.

Dales Tour

To the Band's great disappointment, the Widnes Open Brass Championship had to be cancelled following a large number of last minute withdrawals. Our first contesting foray across the Pennines was not to be - and we would surely have won with our sparkling rendition of James Curnow's *Trittico*! Not to be daunted, or waste a perfectly good coach booking, and with swift organisation by David Gall, we ventured forth instead on a tour of the Yorkshire Dales. Three open-air concerts were given to very appreciative audiences in Leyburn, Reeth and Hawes. The day was completed by a non-competing visit to the Hardraw Scar Brass Band Contest

(which we had skipped this year in favour of pastures new in Widnes!). A very enjoyable day's touring and concerts which I'm sure we will repeat in the future.

Boroughbridge Proms

As an alternative to the Royal Albert Hall event the Harrogate Band provided the people of Boroughbridge with their own "Last Night of the Proms" style concert. A rousing success in all aspects, the concert was greatly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. The first half followed fairly traditional concert lines and included solos from Robert Illsley playing Alan Morrison's *Buster Strikes Back*, David Gall with Monti's *Czardas*, and David Lancaster with the *Post Horn Galop*. The second half was a celebration of the century with a piece of music from each decade - 1990s, *Cry of the Celts*, 1980s, Goff Richards' *Pastorale*, 1970s, *Star Wars*, 1960s, *Ticket to Ride*, 1950s, Bernstein's *Somewhere*, 1940s, *The Way You Look Tonight*, 1930s, *The Continental*, 1920s, *Puttin' On The Ritz*, 1910s, *Jerusalem*, 1900s, *Pomp & Circumstance (Land of Hope and Glory)*. The concert ended with an encore of "An Irish Blessing" a beautifully evocative air.

New Uniforms

Thanks to the sterling efforts of many band members and supporters, particularly Jason Harper and David Lancaster (*see separate items*), we have raised the money required to obtain new uniforms for the band. These are in the more traditional "quasi-military" style in black with burgundy lapels and cuffs, gold braid and incorporating a redesigned badge. The "new look" Harrogate Band was launched at the Fire Brigades Charity Christmas Concert in the Royal Hall, Harrogate in December, at which the Band once more was pleased to play its part in raising over £3,000 for the charity at this sell-out event. Our old jackets will continue to serve as "walking out" wear when not on stage.

Future Engagements

3-Mar-00	Concert with Tewit Youth Band, Christchurch - Evening
19-Mar-00	Northern Regional Championships, Darlington
22-Mar-00	AGM - bandroom
15-Apr-00	Grinton Church, Swaledale
7-May-00	YHBBA Contest, Scarborough
19-May-00	Games evening - the bandroom
26-May-00	Netherlands tour (to 3-Jun-00)
4-Jun-00	City of York Millennium Tattoo
18-Jun-00	Valley Gardens, Harrogate – p.m.
1-Jul-00	Ian Bristow's Wedding
2-Jul-00	Recreation Field, Pateley Bridge
16-Jul-00	Castle Yard, Knaresborough
23-Jul-00	Nidd Hall, Nidd
29-Jul-00	Peter Andrews' Wedding
29-Jul-00	Millennium Proms at Mowbray House, Kirkby Malzeard
30-Jul-00	Canal Gardens, Leeds
30-Sep-00	Barn Dance - Evening
16-Nov-00	Concert with Harrogate Grammar School Band

These are confirmed engagements. For further details of any of these, please contact the Band via the contacts below.

PR and Web Site News

We had a good series of articles in the newspapers and band press earlier this month with a press release about our recent activities, and our MD, David Lancaster, gave a live interview on Radio York.

Visitors continue to flock to the web site, which has recently won a second successive "Brass Oscar". New engagements arise from the web site, the most recent being for a private party in Haworth. The local bands in West Yorkshire were all unable to help out –

the date being the weekend after their Regional Championships and they naturally want a weekend off – and a search on the Internet turned up our web site.

The Brass Band Bibliography, which forms part of the site, has been linked via an "affiliates" programme to the Amazon Internet bookstore. This enables visitors using the bibliography to order books from Amazon, and the Band receives a small commission on each sale. The quantities involved will not make the Band rich, but will probably subsidise one or two new sets of music each year!

A new address can now be used to reach the band web site (the old one is still valid). The new domain name has been registered for the Band and gives us a personalised and more meaningful address on the web. Many thanks again to Bernie Cook and friends at Harrogate Online for hosting our web site and also arranging the new domain name for us.

www.harrogateband.org

Keeping in touch

If you have any news or information you would like to see in future issues, please let the Editor know. Also if you know of anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please give his or her details to any Band member.



For queries about our engagements or to book the band, please contact Sue Morland on 01423-887996, for any other information contact Gavin Holman.

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